

SENATE BILL 134

By Cooper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39;
Title 44, Chapter 17, Part 4; Title 44, Chapter 8,
Part 4 and Title 68, Chapter 8, Part 1, relative to
personal responsibility for animals.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 44-8-408, is amended by deleting
such section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

§ 44-8-408.

(a)

(1) It is an offense for any person to allow a dog belonging to or under the
control of such person, to go upon the premises of another or upon a public right-
of-way.

(2) Subdivision (a)(1) shall not apply to a person owning or in control of a
dog on a hunt or chase, or on the way to or from a hunt or chase, nor to a dog
guarding or driving stock, or on the way for that purpose, nor to a person owning
or in control of a dog being moved from one (1) place to another; provided, that
the foregoing exemptions shall not apply unless all damages done by dogs
therein exempted, to the person or property of another, shall be paid or tendered
to the person so damaged, or to the person's agent, within thirty (30) days after
the damage is done.

(3) Any person committing a violation of this subsection shall be liable for
all personal or property damage caused by a dog belonging to such person or
under such person's control.

(b)

(1) A violation of subdivision (a)(1) shall be punishable as a Class C misdemeanor;

(2) A violation of subdivision (a)(1), if a victim suffers property damage or bodily injury, shall be punishable as a Class A misdemeanor; and

(4) A violation of subdivision (a)(1), if a victim suffers death or serious bodily injury, shall be punishable as a Class E felony.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 44-8-409, is amended by deleting such section in its entirety.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.